Natural Hazards and Land Use Planning Series
Session #3 Connecting Community to Hazard Mitigation Planning
24 October 2024
Guidance Document

Goal: Attendees discuss and leave with list of questions they may want to think about, ask, or answer to start to approach the topic of integrating hazard mitigation plans and community planning efforts.

1. Who is my _____ (emergency director, local or regional planner) and what is their contact information (phone, email)?

2. To what extent have we included natural hazards in our planning processes?
    a. Any special zoning, ordinances, land use plans, etc. that address hazards?
    b. Past mitigation or infrastructure projects?

3. What staff or community groups should be involved in these processes of drafting hazard mitigation plans and comprehensive/community planning?

4. Have we identified who in our community may be most affected by natural hazards?
    a. Are these folks, or the organizations that serve these folks, included in our planning conversations? (E.g., what community members or groups hold local knowledge and lived experience)

5. What data do we need (i.e., environmental, demographic)?
    a. Where can I find these data sources and who is responsible for them?
    b. What is missing? Where are there gaps in this data?

6. How can our hazard mitigation efforts ensure both short and long-term equitable outcomes?

Assessing Risk:

- **Hazard** – "an act or phenomenon that has the potential to produce harm or other undesirable consequences to a person or thing. Hazards exist with or without the presence of people and land development."
- **Disaster** – "serious disruption to the functioning of a community"
- **Exposure** – "the people, property, systems, or functions that could be lost to a hazard… includes what lies in the area the hazard could affect."
- **Vulnerability** – "susceptibility to physical injury, harm, damage, or economic loss."
- **Risk** – "estimated impact a hazard would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community… likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition."
  - Risk = Hazard + Exposure + Vulnerability

Definitions from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute – Independent Study Program Glossaries (training.fema.gov)

5 Phases of Emergency Management:

- **Prevention** – Preventing hazards from occurring or impacting your community. Note: Not all hazards are preventable. *Examples: evacuation planning, environmental planning*
- **Mitigation** – Pre-disaster effort to reduce risk from disaster impacts such as loss of life and property. *Examples: defensible space (wildfires), establishing zoning and building codes, risk assessments*
- **Preparedness** – Training and exercises to increase a community's ability to respond during a disaster. *Examples: educational campaigns, disaster exercises for personnel and/or community members*
- **Response** – Reaction to occurring disaster or emergency aimed to save lives, reduce economic loss, and alleviate suffering. *Examples: evacuation, rescue, communications, shelters*
- **Recovery** – Happens after disaster has subsided to repair damages to basic physical, social, cultural, and economic services. *Examples: debris cleanup, financial assistance*

Sourced from:

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2020, July 20). *Mission Areas and Core Capabilities*. National Preparedness. https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/mission-core-capabilities

Office of Organizational Resilience. (n.d.). *5 phases of emergency management*. University of Nevada Reno. https://www.unr.edu/organizational-resilience/phases